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World report

Exchange of spies reported in works

From Chicago Tribune wires

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa—South African spy couple Dieter and Ruth Gerhardt could be exchanged for Soviet Jewish dissident Anatoly Shcharansky, the Johannesburg Sunday Times reported. The newspaper quoted unidentified sources as confirming that a top-level spy swap, involving the Gerhardts, Western agents held in Eastern bloc countries, and Soviet dissidents, including Shcharansky, was being negotiated. Shcharansky was sentenced to 13 years hard labor in 1978 for high treason, espionage and anti-Soviet agitation. Gerhardt, former commander of the sensitive Simonstown naval base in Cape Town, was sentenced to life imprisonment for high treason in January last year. His wife was jailed for 10 years. Both were accused of spying for the Soviet Union.